



Four hundred are sworn in at a mass ceremony at City Hall



Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, "aboard" at new training center
The New York Times Studio

Waves and Spars Day Is Marked As Navy Takes Over Bronx Campus

**Rear Admiral Jacobs Accepts Buildings of
Hunter College, but Mayor Warns That
City Wants Them Back After War**

A quarterdeck voice boomed: "Hoist the colors." A chill breeze beat out the folds of the American flag as it climbed the pole in the center of the campus. The band from the U. S. S. Prairie State broke into "The Star-Spangled Banner" and the Gothic buildings of Hunter College in the Bronx became yesterday "for the duration" the property of the Waves and Spars.

But only "for the duration," as Mayor La Guardia warned Rear Admiral Randall Jacobs, chief of the Bureau of Naval Personnel, in a ceremony on the steps of the main college building on Navy Avenue.

"I know when the Navy gets hold of anything that's good, they keep it forever," said the Mayor, who braved the cold without a coat. "We must have it back." He said he was happy to be able to provide the facilities for the Navy, to give them the finest in womanhood as well as the finest in college buildings.

Admiral Jacobs, in accepting the buildings in behalf of the Secretary of the Navy and the Navy Department, assured the Mayor that they would be returned to the city "if and when the war is over." He said that the Navy had inspected many other colleges, but had found none so ideally suited as the Hunter Bronx unit to the purpose of preliminary training of Waves and Spars.

The ceremonies, part of Waves and Spars Day, started on its way an intensive drive for new enlistments in both auxiliaries.

Captain Paul T. Blackburn, representing Rear Admiral Edward J. Marquart, Commandant of the Third Naval District, read the orders from the Secretary of the Navy, instructing him to proceed and take over the buildings.

James J. Lyons, Bronx Borough President, who described himself as

president "of the greatest borough of the greatest city of the greatest country in the world," welcomed the Waves and Spars and expressed confidence that the Navy would return the buildings after the war when "they will be even more valuable because they have been occupied by the charms of the women of our Navy and Coast Guard."

Expressing sympathy for the neighbors of Hunter College in the Bronx who have had to vacate their homes to make room for the trainees, Lieut. Comdr. Mildred H. McAfee, commanding officer of the Waves, said: "We hope they think it's well worth it. We'll do all in our power to make it so."

Lieut. Comdr. Dorothy Stratton, director of the Spars, welcomed the 418 women newly inducted into the Waves and Spars.

The new inductees, flanked by eighty uniformed members of the Waves, stood shivering as they listened to the ceremony. They had the right to shiver. At noon they had stood at attention at City Hall, where in mass induction, they were sworn in—the Waves by Admiral Jacobs, the fifty Spars by Rear Admiral Stanley V. Parker of the Coast Guard.

Clouds scurried across the sky at a fast clip as the women stamped frozen feet trying to keep warm. A few were bareheaded.

After the City Hall induction, the women marched in formation to the Eighth Avenue Subway. They went fare-free to the Bronx in cars that shot direct from City Hall to 203d Street, loaded only with feminine freight. For many it was the first ride to the city outpost.

Last night they were guests at dinner at the Hotel Plaza of the American Women's Voluntary Services. Later they attended a dance at the Y. W. C. A.'s Hospitality House.